

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 34-36, 38 and 44-46 have been amended. Claims 33, 41-43, 47-49 and 59-60 have been canceled and claims 61-69 have been added. Enclosed herewith is Credit Card form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$840.00 in payment of the fee for the amended and added claims. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment to our Deposit account 18-1644.

The Examiner has objected to claims 34-40 and 44-46 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have now rewritten claims 34-36, 38 and 44-46 in independent form. These claims, and their respective dependent claims 37, 39 and 40, are thus now believed to be allowable.

Added independent claims 62-64 are method claims which correspond to allowable amended apparatus claims 34 and 35. Claims 62-64 are thus also believed to be allowable.

Added independent apparatus claim 61 is similar to amended apparatus claim 34 in that it recites an image pickup apparatus in which the operation of a protection cover or its operation mode is controlled in accordance with communication with an external apparatus. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited Kennedy patent. Added apparatus claim 61 is thus also believed to be allowable.

Added independent claims 65 and 69, and their respective dependent claims, are also directed to a unit connectable to an apparatus in which the operation mode of the unit is controlled based on a signal supplied from the apparatus. These claims are also believed to be allowable.


In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims remaining in the application are

believed to be allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of same to issue is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

ROBIN, BLECKER & DALEY
330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017
(212) 682-9640


John J. Torrente
Registration No. 26,359
An Attorney of Record

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